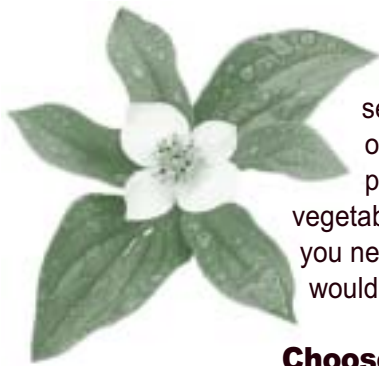


## 2 Plant right for your site



### Get to know your yard.

Where is it sunny or shady? Dig in a few places to see where your soil is sand or clay, soggy year 'round or bone dry. Look around – are there plants with problems? Where do you want play areas, vegetables, color, views, or privacy? How much lawn do you need, or want to maintain? What kind of plantings would fit your yard?

### Choose the right plant for the right place.

Select plants that grow well in the Northwest and fit the sun, soil, and water available in your yard. Native plants are best near waterways, and can also work well on other sites. Look around at neighbors' yards, nurseries, books, and demonstration gardens for plants that do well in sites similar to yours.



Waterwise Garden at the Bellevue Botanical Garden

### Pick plants that resist pests and use less water.

Many pest and disease resistant varieties are available now – ask at nurseries or Master Gardener clinics. Choose plants that are “low water use” or “drought tolerant.” After they're established (1-3 years) many will thrive just on our limited summer rainfall, saving you time and money on watering.

### Group plants by their needs.

Put plants that need full sun, or shade, or rich soil, or regular irrigation together with those with similar needs. That way you don't have to water the whole yard to reach one thirsty plant!

### Lawns and vegetables are picky!

They need several hours of full sun, level well-drained soil, and irrigation. Limit lawn areas to where you need them. Other plants are better for shade, soggy sites, or slopes, and require less maintenance.

### Give plants a good start.

Prepare the soil by mixing compost into planting beds. (For trees and shrubs, mix compost into the whole planting bed, or just plant in native soil and mulch well. Don't add compost just to their planting holes – that can limit root growth.) Then spread out the roots, add water, and tamp soil back in for good root contact. Set plants so soil is at the same height on the stem as at the nursery to prevent problems. Mulch new plantings well, and be sure to water even drought tolerant plants during their first few summers, until they build deep roots.



### Make space for wildlife.

You can invite birds, butterflies, and other wildlife into your yard, protect shorelines and salmon, and make a more attractive landscape.

- Plant trees and use native plants, especially ones with fruit and flowers.
- Plant in layers (ground cover, shrubs, and trees) so your landscape is like the forest.
- Avoid using pesticides – they can poison birds, beneficial insects, and salmon when they wash off.
- Provide a bird bath or other small water source.
- If space allows, leave dead standing trees and brush piles as homes for wildlife.
- Leave wild “buffer” areas of native plants along ravines, streams, shorelines, and fencelines.

